



# U.S. Department of Energy

## Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

Submit by E-mail

Proposed Action Title: WAPA Transmission Line Maintenance and Repair Operations: Sonora-San Luis 34.5kV Transmission Line Structure Repairs.

Program or Field Office: WAPA Desert Southwest Region Office, Phoenix, AZ

Location(s) (City/County/State): Yuma County, Arizona

Proposed Action Description:

Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) Desert Southwest Region Office (DSW) proposes to repair damaged cross arms and hardware on existing structures along the Sonora-San Luis 34.5kV Transmission Line during Summer 2018. All work will be conducted using man-lift crane bucket trucks utilizing existing access roads to reach each structure. No road work is necessary for these structure repairs. All repairs will be conducted within the Right-of-Way (ROW).

Please see attachment sheet:

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

B1.3 - Routine maintenance

For the complete DOE National Environmental Policy Act regulations regarding categorical exclusions, including the full text of each categorical exclusion, see Subpart D of [10 CFR Part 1021](#).

Regulatory Requirements in 10 CFR 1021.410(b): (See full text in regulation)

☒ The proposal fits within a class of actions that is listed in Appendix A or B to 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D.

To fit within the classes of actions listed in 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B, a proposal must be one that would not: (1) threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, or similar requirements of DOE or Executive Orders; (2) require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators), but the proposal may include categorically excluded waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment actions or facilities; (3) disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that preexist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases; (4) have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources, including, but not limited to, those listed in paragraph B(4) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B; (5) involve genetically engineered organisms, synthetic biology, governmentally designated noxious weeds, or invasive species, unless the proposed activity would be contained or confined in a manner designed and operated to prevent unauthorized release into the environment and conducted in accordance with applicable requirements, such as those listed in paragraph B(5) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B.

☒ There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal.

☒ The proposal has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion. This proposal is not connected to other actions with potentially significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.25(a)(1)), is not related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(7)), and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or 10 CFR 1021.211 concerning limitations on actions during preparation of an environmental impact statement.

Based on my review of the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (as authorized under DOE Order 451.1B), I have determined that the proposed action fits within the specified class(es) of action, the other regulatory requirements set forth above are met, and the proposed action is hereby categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

NEPA Compliance Officer:

*Line Martin*

Date Determined:

*5-30-18*

# **WAPA Transmission Line Maintenance and Repair Operations: Sonora-San Luis 34.5kV Transmission Line Categorical Exclusion Continuation Sheet**

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## **Biological Concerns**

There are no biological resource concerns as cross arm and hardware repairs/replacements will be conducted on manlift cranes and/or bucket trucks within the ROW.

In the event that construction or any other work would occur during the nesting season of any migratory birds or raptors, WAPA repair crews will conduct surveys prior to starting repairs.

If a bird species is found nesting on a structure scheduled for repairs, WAPA Environmental staff shall be contacted for additional instructions prior to beginning repairs.

## **Cultural Resources Concerns**

Cross arm and hardware repairs/replacements will be conducted on manlift cranes and/or bucket trucks within the ROW. Only negligible or minimal ground disturbance would occur.

Based upon the results of a Class I literature review, the ROW has been surveyed and no historic properties lie within the area of potential effects. WAPA made a finding of No Potential to Cause Effects as the activities are exempt per Stipulation III.A and Appendix B.B.7.

**GENERAL:** Do not remove or alter cultural artifacts or paleontological resources (fossils). Cultural artifacts are of potential scientific or cultural importance and include bones, tools, historic buildings, and features. Paleontological resources can be of scientific importance and include mineralized animals and plants or trace fossils such as footprints. Both cultural and paleontological resources are protected by Federal Regulations during Federal construction projects.

**UNKNOWN CULTURAL OR PALEONTOLOGICAL SITES:** On rare occasions cultural or paleontological sites may be discovered during excavation or other earth-moving activities.

- (1) **Reporting:** If evidence of a cultural or paleontological site is discovered, immediately notify the Regional Preservation Officer (602-605-2842) and give the location and nature of the findings. Stop all activities within a 50-foot radius of the discovery and do not proceed with work within that radius until directed to do so by the Regional Preservation Officer.

- (1) **Care of Evidence:** Do not damage or remove artifacts or fossils uncovered during construction.

bcc.